

Appl. No. 10/725,960  
Response dated February 18, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 18, 2004

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

Method for consolidating an earth stratum situated in a subgrade by withdrawing water that is present in there from it, comprising the stepwise arrangement from the surface of the soil, at some depth, of vertical drain ~~draining means~~, such as drains ~~drainage strips~~, in the earth stratum, the arrangement of horizontal drainage provided by a means, ~~such as~~ drainage pipe or pipes, in the upper area of the earth stratum and connecting them to the vertical drain ~~drainage means~~ for water transfer between them, the arrangement of an air sealing layer directly over the horizontal drainage pipes ~~means~~ and the closing of the surface of the soil, as well as the connection of the horizontal drainage ~~means~~ pipes to a pump for discharge of the water.